

I got my start in national politics working on Bob's campaigns while in college. I'll always remember how much all those who were touched by his life's work loved and admired him. His legacy of honest public service remains an inspiration to me and other elected officials in Wisconsin and across the country.

Bob was a leading voice for civil rights and civil liberties, an advocate for peace, and a leader in Congress during his 32 years as a U.S. Representative. He will always be remembered as one of Wisconsin's greatest legislators—among the likes of Bob LaFollette, Gaylord Nelson, and William Proxmire.

I ask my colleagues to join the people of Wisconsin to mourn the loss of a leader whose humility and dedication will forever serve as the model to every person who answers the call to public service. It was a privilege to know him as a friend. It is an honor to continue his legacy in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER YEARGAN'S
MISSOURI CLASS 3 STATE WRESTLING
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hunter Yeargan of Willard, Missouri, for claiming the Missouri Class 3 high school wrestling title.

Hunter entered the title match with a height and reach disadvantage against his opponent in the state championship match. His opponent kept a solid hold on him until the second period. He only needed one shot to come back, and that one shot is exactly what he got. With only five seconds left, Hunter overcame the odds to pin his opponent and win the championship match.

Hunter had an amazing season with a record of 41–1. This is his second state placing after taking third in his class last year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hunter Yeargan for a strong finish to his season, and for bringing the state title home to Willard High School.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY
ALYCE TRAYLOR HARRIS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Mary Alyce Traylor Harris, a member of the first graduating class (1945) of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Harris was the third child of John and Ruby Traylor born on April 4, 1926, in Sylacauga, Alabama.

After graduating from East Highland High School, she moved to Birmingham and attended Miles College. She also attended nursing school at Western Olin High School (Now Jackson Olin) and graduated in the top 10 percent of her class. In 1965, she started

working at University Hospital and served as an LPN retiring in 1985.

She married Thomas Harris and had four children. Her husband passed away in 2003.

She currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Alyce Traylor Harris as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.

HONORING THE WAGNALLS
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Wagnalls Memorial Library in Lithopolis, Ohio. The Wagnalls Memorial will be celebrating 90 years of serving the community this May.

The Wagnalls Memorial was dedicated by Mabel Wagnalls Jones in honor of her parents, Adam and Anna Willis Wagnalls, on May 30, 1925. The Wagnalls Memorial houses both a library and a community theatre where families, children and adults are able to learn, perform and volunteer.

In the time since being dedicated, nearly \$5 million in capital improvements have been made to The Wagnalls Memorial, allowing the community to enjoy the use of the library and other facilities for community events. Additionally, The Wagnalls Memorial has hosted events ranging from reading programs, to theatre and art classes for children and adults.

The Wagnalls Memorial continues to be an important cornerstone of the community today. Recently, the Wagnalls Board of Directors approved The Legacy Campaign in an effort to assure The Wagnalls Memorial is able to continue operating well into the future.

The Wagnalls Memorial has had a long history of service and bringing the community together. I offer my sincere congratulations to The Wagnalls Memorial on their 90th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District, I thank The Wagnalls Memorial for all you do for our community and wish you the best in the future.

THE UNITED STATES AND
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of the relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States. I recently had the honor of meeting with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov to discuss Kazakhstan and its contributions to the international community when the Prime Minister visited Washington to attend IMF and World Bank meetings.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is an important partner to the United States in Central Asia in many ways and is key to our interests in that region and globally. Led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan is a reli-

able partner on the world stage in the areas of energy and regional security, economic development and trade and political and regional stability.

With a population of 18 million people and a size nearly four times that of Texas, Kazakhstan sits at the heart of Central Asia. The country is bordered by Russia and China and is strategically located near Turkey, Iran, India and Eastern Europe. Kazakhstan was the first post-soviet State to lead the 56-country Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) in 2010. As a Member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and a Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, I have seen Kazakhstan's engagement and commitment firsthand.

Kazakhstan has been a global leader in nuclear non-proliferation for 20 years—an achievement reached soon after its independence in 1991. In 1993, it was the first nation to dismantle its nuclear weapons and secure its nuclear materials under the Nunn-Lugar nuclear nonproliferation program, led by former Senators Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN). Since then, it has remained a global leader and U.S. partner in non-proliferation efforts.

Kazakhstan is also an essential partner in assisting the United States in counter terrorism efforts by serving as a supply route and operational partner and supporting the reintegration of Afghanistan into Central Asia, committing millions of dollars. It plays a unique role in fostering and solidifying positive diplomatic relations with regional powers and maintaining economic stability.

The United States and Kazakhstan, among others, strongly support the Modern Day Silk Road initiative, which would revitalize the 2000-year-old Silk Road trading route that connected South and Central Asia to the Mediterranean. The New Silk Road would serve as a critical transportation, communications, trade, energy and cultural bridge between East and West, linking China and India with Europe and supporting the stability of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Kazakhstan is central to its development.

Domestically, Kazakhstan remains the melting pot of Central Asia, given its Kazakh, Russian, Turkish, Mongolian and many other cultural influences. Religious freedom and ethnic tolerance are key principles in its governance, with its diverse mix of people and traditions. In January 2015, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to initiate new national reforms for government ministries, the justice system, infrastructure development and green economy initiatives, political reform and human rights and democratic principles through transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that continuing to increase our relationship with the good people of Kazakhstan is important to our common interests, and I encourage my fellow members to participate in opportunities to travel to the region in order to become better acquainted with the progress that has been made in the country, and to encourage the continued political cooperation while taking advantage of the progress in opening the market to encourage joint investment.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF
SEX SLAVES—“COMFORT
WOMEN”—OF WORLD WAR II

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the unresolved issue of the World War II sex slaves. Also known as “comfort women,” these 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These young women were coerced and suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. On the solemn occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the survivors of this horrific ordeal are still seeking their long overdue justice from the Government of Japan.

Today, we have one of these survivors in Washington, D.C. Her name is Yongsoo Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation. In 1944, 16-year-old Lee was forcibly taken to Taiwan, where she was victimized by multiple Japanese soldiers every day for a year. Her suffering was unimaginable and unspeakable. Sadly, she was not alone in this nightmare. And yet, out of the 200,000 of her sisters, today, she is one out of a handful of survivors from across the Asia-Pacific still alive.

When the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a Joint Meeting of Congress on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese government.

In 2007, in the very same chamber the Prime Minister will be issuing his address, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Japanese government by unanimously passing House Resolution 121, which I authored. The resolution called on the Japanese government to formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces’ coercion of young women into sexual slavery; publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the “comfort women” never occurred; and educate current and future generations about this horrible crime. We are still waiting for their government to comply.

Time is critical. Today, out of 200,000 survivors, there are fewer than 100 surviving women across the Asia-Pacific. Most of these women are in their 80s. They have been denied justice for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I will be in the House chamber when Prime Minister Abe delivers his address. Ms. Lee will attend as my guest. Both of us hope the Prime Minister will finally, and firmly, apologize, and commit to educating the future generation honestly and humbly. Ms. Lee and her sisters deserve no less.

HONORING PFC IGNACIO SERVIN
OF ARIZONA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Ignacio Servin. On September 23, 1944, the 321st RCT, 81st Infantry Division landed on Umurbrogol Mountain, also known as “Bloody Nose Ridge”, in Peleliu to relieve the 1st Marines who suffered nearly 50% casualties during the first week of fighting. Their assignment was to decimate the Japanese resistance and capture a strategic airstrip on the island.

Marines discovered an ammunition storage cave on Bloody Nose Ridge, but a barrage of artillery and naval gunfire failed to neutralize the cave. Company “A” of the 154th Engineer Combat Battalion was dispatched. Commanding Officers 1st Lt. Schauer and 1st Lt. Werdine requested volunteers to crawl to the mouth of the cave, nearly 500 feet with 24 pounds of TNT and a Browning automatic .30 caliber rifle to destroy the stockpile.

PFC Ignacio Servin of Arizona and Charles Samario, (deceased) accepted the challenge. PFC Servin stated he did not allow time to think of the risk or danger, but thought, “If I die, it will be for the greatest country in the world.” Both soldiers survived violent explosions, leveled trees, and flying rocks. PFC Servin states that only “by the Grace of God we were not killed by the explosion or enemy gunfire making it safely back up the hill.”

Today I honor the heroism, courage, and valor of PFC Ignacio Servin, who was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the assault on Peleliu in the Pacific combat theater.

RECOGNIZING THAD BEELER'S
COMMUNITY SERVICE FOL-
LOWING THE 2011 JOPLIN TOR-
NADO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and public service of Thad Beeler in the aftermath of the May 22, 2011 Joplin tornado, and congratulate him on receiving the Missouri Humanities Council’s Exemplary Community Achievement Award.

Many lives were lost or significantly changed in Joplin that tragic spring day. Many homes and businesses were leveled and thousands of memories captured in photos blew away in the storm. During a visit to his parents to clean up storm damage, Thad realized the need to recover and reunite the lost photos with families.

As the Carthage First Baptist Church’s music minister and ministry outreach director,

Thad was able to coordinate a group of 500 volunteers to recover, preserve and reunite Joplin families with lost photos and personal memorabilia. This group scoured the town in the search of documents and was able to recover some items from as far as Willard, Missouri—some 60 miles away. After 6,000 volunteer hours, more than 35,000 photos and items were recovered, retouched and stored at Carthage First Baptist in what became the “Lost Photos of Joplin” project. More than 17,600 photos and memories have been returned to Joplin residents since the project began nearly four years ago.

The project’s success and notoriety led Thad to establish the National Disaster Photo Rescue, a non-profit supporting post-disaster photo rescue and restoration efforts. The national organization has been in communities across the country that have experienced loss from severe weather, including Moore, Oklahoma, and Washington, Illinois.

Thad Beeler has made it possible for storm victims to find documented history, that would otherwise be lost, and continue passing it down through generations to come. His dedication to his community and serving a special need across the country touches the lives of so many and eases the sting of devastation. I commend Thad for putting a novel idea to action and thank him for this uniquely meaningful service he has provided to Joplin residents and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANNIE
PEARL WALL GODFREY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey, a 1945 graduate of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Godfrey was born to Celophus and Annie Marzel Wall in Nixburg, Alabama, on May 18, 1924. She was a part of the first graduating class of East Highland High School. She has been married to Rev. Eratus Godfrey for the past 56 years and is a member of New Beginning Ministries where her husband serves as the pastor.

She is the mother of 10 children, three of which are deceased (Donald, Virgil and Gwendolyn) and three of whom are ordained ministers (Kenneth, DeForest, and Mary). She also helped raise the children of her late daughter. Mrs. Godfrey currently resides in Sylacauga.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.